

Family Information

Sunday Afternoon Bible Class Schedule

The 4:00 PM Sunday afternoon Bible class is on break this Sunday, and it will resume meeting next Sunday, October 2. See Mike Paden or Jim Robbins for details.

Wednesday Service Meeting Schedule

The next service meeting will be on Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30 PM. The first Wednesday of every month will be devoted to children's ministry. See Jeff or Caleb for additional information.

Preview Of New Web Site

In the near future, Northland's new web site will be at ncocfamily.com, which will replace the current site, ncocfamily.org, soon. You can get a preview of the new site at ncocfamily.com, as Jack Evans and Becca Strawser continue transferring material from the old site. If you see any errors, broken links, or misinformation, please notify Jack Evans (jevans@ncocfamily.org).

Fall Fest

Fall Fest is being planned for Sunday evening, October 23, from 5:30-7:00 PM. If you're willing to help, please see Emily Graham, Josh Evans, or Vicki Cowans.

Potluck For Pam & Darrell Estep

Please mark your calendars for Sunday November 6th, for a Potluck immediately following services in the fellowship hall (rooms E41 & E42). We will be gathering to honor Pam and Darrell Estep for the many years they have served our congregation.

New Small Group

If you would be interested in joining a new small group (either being part of one or hosting one) this fall or winter, please see the elders or Caleb.

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Sunday Spanish Worship	10:00 AM
Sunday Ghana Worship	12:00 PM
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 PM

For sessions that are currently meeting on-line, see the announcements above.

Minister: Caleb Dillinger
Elders: Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins
Deacons: Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva
Spanish Ministry: Luis Valdez

On Line Bible Studies

Children's Classes

We currently have children's classes for ages 2-10 during worship (each of them begins after the Lord's Supper). See Mike Evans for further details. The children's education program needs helpers for all age groups. See Lynn Paden or Emily Graham if you can help.

Current On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details and the current schedule.

Mondays at 7:00 PM - Women's prayer group, hosted by Peggy Kaiser. Contact her for details. If you aren't able to join, you can e-mail prayer requests to Peggy.

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM - Women's Bible study "Abide In Christ", led by Karen Susenna. The current study is in Philippians. Contact Karen for more details.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$5265	\$4386
Designated:	75	\$44



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By God's Great Love

Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. - Psalm 5:2

We live in a temporary world, where we face its confusion and harshness; yet God makes his home with those who walk by faith in Jesus, our Heavenly Father has made us citizens of heaven, and he gives us hope in unseen things. Each time we pray, we can wait expectantly for the Lord to give us guidance and spiritual comfort - *In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. - Psalm 5:3*

Caribou live in arctic realms, so they also live in two different worlds - in summer, a world full of sunlight when the fields are full of grasses and berries, and in winter a world of constant darkness where food is always scarce. So our Creator equips the caribou (caribou are called reindeer in Scandinavia, where they are often domesticated) to thrive in this chilly home.

In winter, caribou eat moss, lichens, and mushrooms; even these are hard to find in winter, so God adjusts their eyesight during the dark months. Behind the caribou's retina is a reflective layer (a "tapetum lucidum") that humans lack (cats and dogs have one). In summer, this membrane is gold, yet in winter it changes to blue (making their eyes look blue), enabling these deer to see ultraviolet light that humans cannot see, so they can find food in the darkness.

By God's great compassion and understanding, he enables the caribou to live in both of these worlds. Likewise, in God's unfailing love and boundless knowledge, he gives us everything we have in this life, and the message of Jesus also meets the deepest needs of our souls and spirits - *I, by your great love, can come into your house. - Psalm 5:7*

In summers, caribou hooves have soft and spongy footpads that give them traction in marshy areas, while in winters the pads shrink and tighten, making a hollow space and making it easy for caribou to dig through snowbanks to get food. (The North American name "caribou" comes from an Algonquian phrase meaning "snow shoveler".) Likewise, we can take refuge in God in any season, he gives us guidance at any time, and he gives us peace and hope day and night - *Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. - Psalm 5:11*

God does many other things for the caribou; their broad feet make them surprisingly good swimmers to escape predators, he gives them an ingenious system of conserving heat, and he designs their nasal passages to warm the arctic air as they breathe it. Similarly, God surrounds us with his care, and he shields us from spiritual foes too strong for us - *Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield. - Psalm 5:12*

Surely, the Lord is full of compassion and wisdom, and he gives us eternal life with him.

- Mark Garner

Little Things

Little modest violet blue,
Spangled o'er with morning dew,
Laughing in the sportive air,
God has made thy leaves so fair;
Little lambs that skip and play
In the meadow fresh and gay,
God protects you by His care,
He has made your fleece so fair.

Little star with golden eye,
God has placed thee in the sky;
Little bird with glassy wing,
God has taught thee how to sing;
Little clouds that lightly rest,
On the bosom of the west,
Floating in the summer air,
God has made your form so fair.

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

This is one of the many hymns written by Frances Crosby. Before she began writing hymns, she was already well-known for her poetry and for her efforts to help providing education for the blind.

How Blest Are They

How blest are they who still abide,
Close sheltered in Thy bleeding side;
Who life and strength from thence derive,
And by Thee move, and in Thee live.

How can it be, Thou heavenly King,
That Thou shouldst us to glory bring;
Make us the partners of Thy throne,
Decked with a never-failing crown?

Lord, enlarge our scanty thought,
To know the wonders Thou hast wrought;
Unloose our stammering tongues to tell
Thy love immense, unsearchable.

- Johann Nitschmann (1712-1783) & Anna Caritas Nitschmann (1715-1760)

This poem was written by German brother and sister Johann and Anna Nitschmann. Besides writing, both of them spent considerable time helping with missions - Johann in Swedish Lapland and Russia, and Anna in North America.

Jesus, Our Good Shepherd

Jesus is often described as our good Shepherd, for all of the ways he cares for us, guides us, and protects us. This week, Tara Neiswonger writes about some of the aspects of the relationship between the Shepherd and his sheep.

The Shepherd & The Sheep

It always amazes me that the more you read a scripture, the more it tells you. John 10 lands in the earthly life of Jesus as one of the last exchanges he has with unbelievers, the last of his public ministry. After that his focus is on teaching and preparing his disciples. In this exchange Jesus is speaking with the Pharisees on spiritual blindness (John 9:39-41). In John 10 he leads them through an allegory of the relationship of a Shepherd and his sheep.

One piece that jumps out at me in the passage is *"the sheep follow him because they know his voice, but they will never follow a stranger, in fact they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."* (John 10:5) To me this is a reminder to keep my ears tuned to His voice, to keep my heart soft and ears open to his teachings, so I can know a stranger's voice is indeed a stranger's voice.

Another piece is *"He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."* (John 10:3) There it is, humbling and at times unfathomable, that Jesus knows my name. There is also that He leads them, placing on me the choice to follow. A quick search of eastern culture shepherd practices shows that sheep were led, not driven as we picture wild western cattle are.

The sheep know the Shepherd's voice and know that following that voice means protection from predators, and provisions in terms of water and fresh pasture. Does Psalm 23 jump to mind there? And then we have verse 11 - *"I am the good Shepherd. the good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep."* This I Am statement sums up his personal relationship with us, his lead in our lives as we hear his voice and his sacrifice, enabling us to walk with him for eternity.

- Tara Neiswonger